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and interested students will find the volume valuable and suggestive. The author, however, does not attempt to set up a standard of practices for public personnel service that will tend to secure morale and competency in public administration as distinct from the prevention of evil doing by political progers.

STAMP, SIR JOSIAH, D. SC. *Wealth and Taxable Capacity*. Pp. 195. Price, 10s. 6d. London: P.S. King & Son, Ltd., 1922.

This book comprises the lectures given in February, 1921, at the University College upon current statistical problems in wealth and industry. The lectures analyze methods of using the chief statistical data available in the consideration of problems of wealth and industry, and outline some of the elementary principles involved in the estimating national capital and national income in their relation to prices, taxation and public debts.

The most interesting and suggestive of the lectures, especially to Americans, is the one devoted to "The Limits of Taxable Capacity." Many of the standards for testing the limit of taxable capacity are set up and examined. One is to get the aggregate national income and deduct there from the aggregate subsistence level, assuming that in case of need all the rest could go for public preservation in the form of taxation. This test of taxable capacity is relative, not merely to our production, but also to how much we desire to save and how little we are prepared to consume. In describing this and other limits of taxable capacity, the author sets down in the volume reasons why the limit of taxable capacity can never be an absolute or fixed figure; it depends upon what the taxation is to be used for; it depends upon the spirit and national psychology of the people taxed, which may be influenced by patriotism or sentiment; it depends partly on the way the taxation is raised, both as to the methods adopted and the rate at which the increase is laid on; it depends upon the distribution of wealth; its rate of increase is greater than the rate of increase in wealth, and it shrinks more rapidly than the wealth diminishes.

WARSHAW, J., PH. D., Professor in the University of Nebraska. *The New Latin American*. With an introduction by James E. LeRossignol, LL.D., Dean of the College of Business Administration, University of Nebraska. Pp. 415. Price, \$3.00. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1922.

This is an exceedingly illuminating and helpful book and will be of great service to the general reading public, as well as to those who are planning to give courses on Latin American affairs in our universities. With Dr. Warsaw's book available, there is no longer an excuse for the failure to make the study of Latin American affairs an integral part of our university curriculum. The book is most comprehensive in content, dealing not only with the political, but also with the social and economic aspects. It is, therefore, a particularly valuable book to place in the hands of university students. It should also enjoy wide circulation among the general public, as it is designed not only to interest, but to enlighten the general reader. Dr. Warsaw has done a real service in making this volume available to the American public.

BOGARDUS, EMORY S. *A History of Social Thought*. Pp. 510. Price, \$3.50. University of Southern California Press, 1922.

The term "social thought," as used in this book, is taken to mean "a synthesis of the observations of individuals about the welfare of individuals, considered as individuals or as groups," thus including the "larger social field as well as the more specific one of recent development, namely, the sociological." It is the author's judgment that "the time is hardly ripe for a history of distinctly sociological thought."

Writing a history of social thought, thus conceived, is a stupendous undertaking, for it must begin with a recognition of the social nature of many of the proverbs, maxims, fables and myths of primitive folk, and it ought to close with a survey of the chief trends in present-day sociological thought. Between these two ex-

tremes, in point of time, there is an almost overwhelming abundance and diversity of material. It is this material which Dr. Bogardus, who is head of the department of Sociology at the University of Southern California, attempts to cover and to classify in the twenty-eight chapters which comprise this volume. Among the chapter titles are the following: "The Social Thought of Ancient Civilizations," "Plato and Grecian Social Thought," "Roman Social Thought," "Social Thought in the Middle Ages," "Anthropologic Sociology," "Eugenic Sociology," "Psycho-Sociologic Thought" and "The Rise of Educational Sociology." There are separate chapters on some of the leading modern writers such as Malthus, Comte, Marx, Buckle, Spencer and Ward.

"Sound social thought needs to be democratized, that is, to be made available for all people." These words indicate the nature and purpose of this volume. It aims to present in a popular, readable form to a world of students the best in the world's social thought. Judged by this purpose, it is an interesting effort in a commendable direction.

JAMES H. S. BOSSARD.

AMERICAN RAILWAY ASSOCIATION, Proceedings of the Session of the. Telegraph and Telephone Section. Held at The Jefferson, Richmond, Va., March 21, 22, and 23, 1922.

NATIONAL CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE, under the direction of *Edward N. Clopper*, Ph. D. *Rural Child Welfare*. Pp. 355. Price, \$3.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1922.

Twenty years ago, approximately, the growing city and the industrial system captured the imagination of the American people. Since then, the problems which they have created have monopolized our attention and our best effort. The problem of the rural child, like other problems of rural life, has been neglected in favor of its urban complement. City people are prone to romance about the sunshine and pure air and singing birds of country

life, not realizing the tremendous burdens and handicaps of rural childhood in numerous communities where the aggressive element has left the farms for the city, or where the tide of civilization has been slow to penetrate.

Along comes this timely volume to remind us, with all the force of a new discovery, that home life may be as inadequate, depressive and unwholesome in the open stretches as in the congested city; that agricultural child labor is the commonest, even if the least known, form of child labor; that, in spite of all the natural facilities in country life, the rural community is a playless and recreationless community; that juvenile dependency, illiteracy, truancy and delinquency are as rife in the country as in the city, and more dangerous because so largely unattended.

This book is distinctly a laboratory instead of an armchair product. The facts presented are based upon a study of conditions in West Virginia, conducted by the National Child Labor Committee. Eleven communities in as many different counties, including a variety of types and conditions of rural life that is probably representative of rural conditions all over the country, were studied by field workers who, instead of spending a week or two in a superficial survey, as has too often been the "custom of our caste," lived a sufficiently long time with their facts to fathom them. The material is classified and analyzed under seven chapter-headings which, together with an introductory chapter on the "Rights of Childhood" by Edward N. Clopper, under whose direction the study was made, comprise the volume.

To scientific students, the study stands out as a model in its combination of painstaking inquiry, of exact thoroughness, of manifest fairness and of deep sympathy. To well-intentioned people who are anxious to promote child welfare, but who are ignorant of the facts and of their proper determination, it is a revelation. Those familiar with the facts, but who have kept profoundly silent or Levite-like have passed by on the other side, this plain, truthful, unexaggerated story ought to galvanize into constructive action.

JAMES H. S. BOSSARD.